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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 22 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 14 July 1997, Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries addressed a letter to you in which they requested to inscribe in the agenda of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly an item of the so-called "need to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 owing to the fundamental change in the international situation and to the coexistence of two Governments across the Taiwan Strait" (A/52/143). Upon instruction of my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position as follows:

1. The letter and its annexes contained in document A/52/143 distort facts in a brazen attempt to make use of the august organization of the United Nations to carry out plots aimed at splitting a sovereign State and creating "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" or "one country, two Governments". This has not only seriously encroached upon China's sovereignty and grossly interfered in its internal affairs, it has also wilfully trampled upon the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), at which the Government and people of China express their utmost indignation and condemnation. The Government and people of China are firmly opposed to any such illegal activities against the spirit of the Charter by any country or person under whatever pretext and strongly urge Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries to redress their erroneous acts immediately.

2. As is known to all, Taiwan has been an inalienable part of China since ancient times. The 1943 Cairo Declaration and the 1945 Potsdam Proclamation once again reaffirmed China's sovereignty over Taiwan. To date, 159 countries have established diplomatic relations with China. They all recognize that there is but one China in the world, that the Government of the People's Republic of

* A/52/150.

China is the sole legal Government representing China in its entirety and that Taiwan is part of China. Though the two sides of the Taiwan Strait have been in a temporary state of separation since October 1949, the status of Taiwan as part of the territory of the People's Republic of China has never changed, nor has the Government of the People's Republic of China ever given up its jurisdiction over Taiwan. No change in Taiwan's social, economic and political situation can change the fact that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory, that Taiwan is a province of China and that the Taiwan authorities are a local authority of China. Therefore, Taiwan has no qualifications whatsoever to join in whatever form the United Nations and any intergovernmental international organizations of the United Nations system represented by sovereign States.

3. In 1971, the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session adopted by an overwhelming majority the historically significant resolution 2758 (XXVI). In this resolution, the Assembly clearly and unequivocally recognized "that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China is one of the five permanent representatives of the Security Council" and decided to restore all rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and expel the representatives of Taiwan "from the place which they unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in all the organizations related to it". The restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China and the expulsion of the Taiwan authorities from the United Nations are two indivisible aspects of one question. Without expelling the Taiwan authorities from the United Nations, it would have been impossible to resolve properly China's representation at the United Nations. In the resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed the "one China" principle, thus settling once and for all and in a just manner the question of China's representation at the United Nations. It not only foiled the plot by a very small number of countries to create "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" in the United Nations then, but has also ruled out for good the possibility of such a plot achieving its evil purpose. The resolution, which reflects the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as the desire of an overwhelming majority of countries of the United Nations, is a victory of justice.

However, since 1993, Nicaragua and a very small number of other Member States, moving against the historical trend at the beck and call of the Taiwan authorities, have gone so far as to challenge resolution 2758 (XXVI) and attempted to mislead the General Assembly into considering the question of the so-called Taiwan's "representation". This year, Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries have even unscrupulously proposed to review resolution 2758 (XXVI). The thrust of their proposal is to negate the "one China" principle and strip resolution 2758 (XXVI) of its essence, so as to create "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "one country, two Governments" by new tricks. This is entirely a mockery and blasphemy of such an august organization as the United Nations. The General Committee of the successive sessions of the General Assembly since the forty-eighth session have all made a just reply to this question, i.e., not to include the question of the so-called Taiwan's "representation" in the agenda of the General Assembly. This has fully reflected the resolve of the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations to defend the principles of the Charter and their strong will to safeguard the seriousness and integrity of General Assembly resolution

2758 (XXVI). The new proposal dished out by Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries this year will come to an end certainly no better than previous years.

4. There is no one in the world that is more concerned about the interests and future of the 21.5 million Taiwan compatriots than the Government and people of China. As early as over a decade ago, Mr. Deng Xiaoping proposed the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" for the settlement of the Taiwan question. On 1 July 1997, the concept of "one country, two systems" first materialized in Hong Kong. It marks an important step towards the accomplishment of China's great cause of national reunification and has won warm welcome from the entire Chinese people, including the 21.5 million Taiwan compatriots, as well as appreciation and endorsement from all countries in the world. In December 1999, "one country, two systems" will be implemented in Macao. Facts will prove that the concept of "one country, two systems" is not only a good way to settle the questions of Hong Kong and Macao, but will also certainly succeed in Taiwan. The ultimate realization of "one country, two systems" in Taiwan conforms to the common aspirations and is in the fundamental interest of the entire Chinese people, including the 21.5 million Taiwan compatriots and contributes to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and the world as a whole.

In order to end the state of separation between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait and achieve national reunification, Chinese President Jiang Zemin made an important speech based on the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" on 30 January 1995, in which he put forward an eight-point proposal on developing the relations across the Strait and advancing the process of peaceful reunification of the motherland. The proposal has not only taken into consideration the long-term interests of the entire Chinese people, but also accommodated and safeguarded the vital interests of the Taiwan compatriots, thus winning strong support from the entire Chinese people, including the Taiwan compatriots, as well as wide acclaim from the international community. The Government of China will adhere to the proposal and policies for a long time to come to promote the development of relations between the two sides of the Strait and create more favourable conditions for peaceful reunification. However, we have to point out with regret that instead of making a goodwill response, the Taiwan authorities have continued to carry out secessionist activities in the world aimed at creating "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan". We hope that the Taiwan authorities will, in the wider interest of the Chinese nation, return to the one China position, stop all activities to split the motherland and take concrete measures to improve the relations across the Strait.

Only national reunification is the fundamental guarantee of the interests of the Taiwan compatriots. Only with the accomplishment of peaceful reunification can the Taiwan compatriots truly and fully enjoy, together with other Chinese people of all ethnic groups, the dignity and prestige attained by their great motherland in the world.

5. China attaches importance to relations with all States Members of the United Nations and is ready actively to develop friendly relations of cooperation with all countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. We have never done anything to hurt Nicaragua and the other

countries. However, what they have done has seriously hurt the fundamental interests of China. We hope that they will stop trampling on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the Charter and the relevant General Assembly resolution for some trifle self-interests. This is the common desire of all justice-upholding States Members of the United Nations. Should Nicaragua and a very small number of other countries continue to isolate themselves and stand against the overwhelming majority of Member States, they would ultimately pay the price for it. We are convinced that the Government and people of China will continue to enjoy the understanding and support of the international community and the Governments and people of the general membership in their just cause of maintaining State sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 54 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
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and Plenipotentiary
and Permanent Representative of
the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations